

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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1. The exchange of visits between Czechoslovak President Klement Gottwald and DDR President Wilhelm Pieck was the result of Soviet pressure on the two satellites to establish rapport. The main problem on the Czechoslovak side is the return of Sudeten Germans and their status within the Czechoslovak Republic. The leadership of the Czech Communist Party (KSC) is resigned to the necessity of accepting some Sudetens. However, the main task is that of convincing the Czech people, who are not responding to KSC propaganda designed to prepare them psychologically for the possibility of a return of Sudetens. On the contrary, some Czech border settlers, worried by propaganda and fearing for their personal safety, are returning to the interior.
2. The following pro-German actions have been undertaken by Czechoslovakia:
  - a. German schools with German teachers have been established in Liberec and Usti nad Labem.
  - b. Publication of the anti-German Liberec daily Straz Severu has been stopped.
  - c. A German language weekly Frieden und Aufbau is being published for German workers by the Prague trade union center.
  - d. The Ministry of Information recently decided to produce German language films, to show Soviet German language films, and to increase imports of East German films.
  - e. The Czechoslovak radio broadcasts a special German program on medium and short waves for Germans in Czechoslovakia.

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- f. All regional centers again have German bookshops.
- g. Rude Pravo publishes letters from German citizens to President Gottwald.
- h. In the fall of 1951 local KSC groups began a campaign to demonstrate that the old slogan "a good German - a dead German" is no longer valid because of the effective re-education of Eastern Germans by the Communist Party.
3. As a result of the Gottwald visit, Bruno Koehler, who was dropped from the KSC Central Committee in December 1951, was reinstated. Koehler's wife also is active again.
4. The Polish Government is not in principle opposed to the return of some Germans to the provinces of Western Poland, provided that the DDR submits lists of proposed re-emigrants for approval. Poland is willing to restore former properties and pay indemnities, but desires the return mainly of industrial workers and miners, the only groups considered reliable.\* Mixed technical commissions are to be set up to handle resettlement problems.

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- \* Comment: It is not clear from this report whether the reported willingness to restore former properties and pay indemnities would apply only to Germans accepted for return to Poland or to other expelled Germans as well.

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